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that attendance at Sunday School is ~~continued~~
even during married life in most manufacturing
towns. Perhaps it doesn't often happen
in Bradford as in Preston that children ~~parents~~
grand-parents start together for the Sunday
School, then to devote themselves to their ~~own~~
classes; but every such school, belonging
either to the Church or to Dissenting ^{Non} Societies,
has its 'Select Class' for men & women,
in each of which it is not unusual to
have as many as forty, or even eighty,
members. And quite delightful classes
these are to work with, those of the young
women at any rate, who are full of native
intelligence, teachableness, & desire for
the best things.

The congregational singing, again, which
forms part of the various Sunday services,
is a real delight to people blessed with fine
voices & true ear, & who are seldom without
some degree of musical training. This they
receive from choir practice, in school
classes, perhaps in even degree, as in
Preston, through concerts & occasional
opera going; but when there's a will there's a
way, & the people of Bradford & Fals have, in
consequence, been known in all the country side
as famous singers. Every fifty years or
so, the choir of the neighbouring village comes
for though the choruses of the Messiah, Elijah,
&c. 'without book'; what is better, many a
common

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were admitted to membership, & to ^{protect} & ^{to} ~~protect~~ their own rights. The various crafts formed guilds of their own, & that in fact each ^{leader} ~~leader~~ was under the government of the ^{leader} of its several ^{craft} guilds. & the Superior of the ^{leader} Merchant Guild. In spirit of the Craft guilds was threefold, - to ^{serve} ~~encourage~~ good work, & vicious work, for all its members, & to exclude too great competition. To attain these ends, they required that all work should be submitted to examination & receive the corporation mark, & they limited the no. of master workmen, as well as the number of apprentices which each master might have. So early as Henry II. we read of guilds of weavers in all the principal towns in the Dom. & the ^{copy} of written acts & documents pretty ^{of} curious reminiscence of these ancient guilds is still preserved in the Guild Festival of Preston, Ch. is celebrated with much pomp & festivity every twentieth year, the great feature of the occasion being a procession in which the various crafts are seen in the act of flying their several arts.

In the two or three disturbed reigns which follow that of Henry II. the woollen manufacture declined, despite the action of the guilds, & some protective measures on the part of the sovereigns; but in the same proportion, the value of wool as an article of export increased. The long-wool of Norfolk which was peculiarly fitted for the woollen manufacture was used here chiefly; we read of little fit being exported thence. N. was a great wool-bearing country, still, however, it produced less wool exported now, from the earliest periods, as we have seen, especially has been disengaged for the crafts & processes of the staple; the woolwick nation

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Spinners & weavers less can read & upon musical
notation as easily as upon a print-book; & visiting
not in Exeter Hall or elsewhere would one hear
the choruses of the gaomists oratorios more
gaily rendered than by the Bradford & District
Choral Society. The taste for music is all
but universal; everybody sings, symphonies,
harmoniums & pianos in many a farm-yard
village; while the brass bands, the glory of some
of the mills shew as much enterprise as
musical talent. certain of the operatives put
themselves under training with such happy
results that they perform every week in the
public parks in town with a good military
band, before a large & very critical audience.
Bradford has capital subscription, & occasional
concerts; but it has not a "School of music"
or Conservatoire, which offers ^{free} musical
instruction of a very high order to pupils
of both sexes; a highly valued privilege
would such instruction be to people of
common musical ability: but this is
one of the advantages of State organization
which we ^{in England} ~~against~~ ^{in Scotland} are content to want.

The Bradford mills close at 5.30 P.M., thus
the operatives have a long evening to spend
in pleasure, ^{or which} & upon personal im-
provement, & many opportunities are put
in their way. Elementary instruction
is well provided for; besides that, there
are evening classes for mathematics, language,
the various sciences, all well-taught & well-
attended by working people, who are both able
willing to pay the small fee required. But
probably, we have nothing in England to ^{compare} ~~equal~~ with

then a famous clothing town, go to mix the Eng. wool with any other kinds.

Now consider its raw state, this cloth was
was a principal source of revenue to the exchequer,
but what of the Eng. that learn to weave it into beatitudes,
Frapes like those of glendens? How would be
comes not only national but personal
income, for the Eng. kings of the past ^{remained} ~~and~~ ^{and} great
sheep farmers.

Thus we have a long history showing how our
Plantagenet & Tudor sovereigns would keep
strangers to their shores, with crafty tendencies,
scattered them widely amongst the Eng. towns, but
they shelter each other up to a horn-cashmere wh.
themselves, them to pack up bag & baggage, & together
return to their native shores. how they foisted them
by means of protection statutes is indulged here with
many parades. so that it can appear that from
natural scourge or byzantine oppression the Flemish
fled hither as to a stormy home.

Thus, in Henry ^{5th} we have a great inundation
which drove them apid. ^{some} ~~and~~ settled
at the village of worcester in droghill. there they set
up their looms & made stuffs of such excellen
t - that in time they gave name to a great &
peculiarly Eng. manufacturer. More Flemish
weavers followed in the reign of Stephen, & in his
& the following reigns. we find the weavers of
Alfd land & towns paying into the exchequer for
the privileges of their several guilds.

These craft. guilds were a peculiar feature ⁱⁿ the
municipal life of the Eng. A. It necessarily that in
town as well as in country districts some system of mutual
responsibility should exist, early gave rise to guilds
frith-guilds, the members of which were responsible
for one another ^{and} for each other's post. held by
themselves behaved as members of a self-contained
family. But these ancient guilds became
exclusives & somewhat byzantine; only trades

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with the École des lettres et des Sciences of
Nantes, which provides free courses of instruction
of a high order throughout nine months of the
year; literature, science & art, chemistry,
botany, physics, mathematics, history, &
architecture, are taught by first rate lecturers
every evening ^{in the week}. These subjects
are efficiently taught in Bradford as in
other English towns; & the fact that a low
fee is charged is an advantage rather than
otherwise, for both the artisans & the members
of the professional & mercantile classes are
far better ^{paid} off in England than in France; By
English provincial towns have not, except in
so far as they take advantage of the arrangement
proposed by the Universities, the benefit of
instruction at the hands of ^{University} ~~good~~ masters.
Something like the beatitudes lucidity &
powers shewn by a French Professor, say
of History or Literature, ~~would be~~ ^{is} a treat to
English ears. But this is a loss to the
educated rather than to the labouring classes;
in the latter, nothing could be more likely to help
as the painstaking, thorough instruction ~~provided~~

In the matter of general reading, the
working-people of Bradford are certainly not
behind those of Nantes: - "It would be
difficult to enter the Public Library at Nantes
without finding workmen in it; some
reading for profit, others for pleasure;" I have
sometimes counted half a dozen workmen, even
on a week day, in the Nantes reading-room
which is open all the year round to our people &
foreigners, without any kind of form or ceremony.

This industry. & the craft in wool has been for
seventeen centuries
until a late period that it is almost within
the memory of man the making of worsted
shuffs & woolens, & the trade in wool have been
the main sources of our national wealth: & that
ever since Britain became a nation, the
Normans had country clothing towns in the island
at Winchester, clothes were made choice enough
for the Emperors. ^{see mat. from} wool spun into thread & fine
says a contemporary historian, as to be comparable
to a spider's web.

When the Conqueror came, he found the Saxons wearing rough
clothes for home use, ~~rendering~~ ^{rendered} their wool to envy of Europe
for its fineness, brightness & length of staple, to be made into fine

shuffs by the Flemings. These people were held by the Normans
with a gift for making textile fabrics. They were the
clothers of Europe, no other nation thought of
competing with them. But William, with his
usual judgment, conceived that they might
least his new subjects: he brought forth a colony
of Flemings & planted them in various towns
chiefly in Normandy where they established the trade
which made them for centuries one of the chief towns in
my kingdom.

These early settlers formed a sort of nucleus to
which gathered from time to time fresh colonies of
Flem. weavers. Our kings were ever as ^{usual}
fathers to these skillful strangers. At that day
England & Spain grew the wool ^{with} Merino was
clothed the rest of Europe; ~~that~~ the fine Spanish
wool. The merino breed was ^{consequently}
derived from sheep of Eng. breed a royal
gift in the reign of? But even in Spain
so highly was Eng. wool regarded that Statute
was drawn up forbidding the clothers of Britain

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You have only to ask for the book you want, & help
yourself to the works of preference lying the shelf.
The pleasant, well-arranged reading-room.
In the winter time, it is open every evening from
seven till ten, & should like to know who
we could find the same thing in England." —
Bradford. & has a Free Public Library, established
under the recent Act, which contains one
27,000 volumes as against the 100,000 of
Granta, & in addition is well supplied with
the public journals. 9,000 readers in the
News Room & Reading Rooms, is an ordinary
weekly average, 1,600 of these being women,
that is to say, upwards of 1,500 persons, on
an average, read in these rooms in the
course of a single day; besides this, over
5,000 borrowers take books to their homes.
This is in the Central Department alone; &
there are some half dozen branches for the
convenience of people who live at a distance,
each with its own stock of books & reading room.
These numbers very fairly represent the
'reading public' among the labouring classes,
for the gentlemen reading in their various clubs,
a Church Institute & a Mechanics' Institute
have each their libraries & reading rooms, & there
is also a capital Subscription Library with
a supply, 90,000 volumes. ~~for~~

Upon the face of such facts as these it is hardly
so ^{reasonable} to say that the English operation is not
provided with or does ^{not} appreciate intellectual
entertainment, or that he has no pleasant
capital to the more
delightful way of spending his long evenings. Local efforts,
however, appear to meet the wants of the working men very fully & the
people appear to be in no respect worse off than his French ^{countrymen} _{friends} who have more leisure, more money, more persons, & ^{are} _{in} a ^{more} _{isolated} ^{position} in the country, suffer in a provincial town
from their intellectual resources becoming a mere question of chance.